

## **The EPA Remote Sensing Archive: A Unique Agency Resource**

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Often, environmental issues need to have a historical perspective, to look back into the past. Remotely sensed imagery is one way to see the land and what happened in a previous time. The EPA is often responsible for looking into the past to facilitate a better future for the environment and all of its inhabitants. There is a little-known facility located in Las Vegas, NV, that can open up this window to the past. The EPA's Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC), a field station of the Landscape Ecology Branch, has been completing historical reports on sites around the country for over 30 years at the request of the Regions. These analysis reports are usually a compendium of aerial photographs covering a specific site for a specific period of time. All of the project materials, including aerial photography dating back to the early 1900s, reside at the EPA Remote Sensing Archive. Increasingly, geospatial data from research projects are finding their way to the Archive as well. This facility, once a disparate collection of materials, has been inventoried, barcoded, and organized into a one-of-a-kind collection of irreplaceable remote sensing data. This facility has over 5,500 rolls and 75,000 cut-frames of aerial photography, over 4,250 reports, and over 4,000 CD-ROMS of digital data from various sensors including Landsat Thematic Mapper, IKONOS, AVIRIS, Hyperion, and Hymap. The inventory is now managed by specialized library software, and the database is increasing daily. This valuable resource is available for EPA employees. Would you like to know more about this facility and how to access the valuable information it contains?

This poster will show the historical development of this unique facility, projects currently underway, and its potential future contribution to the Agency's remote sensing program and information technology efforts.

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